

which the records were transferred and imposed by the Archivist of the United States. Restrictions on access to particular records that have been specified by the donor or transferring agency are known as "specific restrictions." Restrictions on access that may apply to more than one record group are termed "general restrictions," and apply to the kinds of information or classes of records designated, regardless of the record group to which such records have been allocated. Both specific and general restrictions have been published in the "Guide to the National Archives of the United States." (See § 1254.30.) Subparts A and B contain restrictions that have been added or revised since the publication of the latest edition of the Guide.

[40 FR 56892, Dec. 5, 1975. Redesignated at 50 FR 15723, Apr. 19, 1985]

§ 1256.4 Access to records containing personal information.

(a) *NARA policy.* Access to archival records containing information access to which would invade the privacy of an individual is restricted by § 1256.16.

(1) NARA may authorize access to such records for the purpose of statistical or quantitative research to qualified persons doing biomedical research under the conditions outlined in this section.

(2) If NARA is able to make a copy of such records with all personal identifiers masked or deleted, NARA will make such a "sanitized" copy of the record available to all researchers in accordance with part 1254 of this chapter.

(3) NARA will not grant access to restricted census and survey records of the Bureau of the Census less than 72 years old containing data identifying individuals enumerated in population censuses in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2108(b).

(4) NARA will not grant access contrary to a specific restriction to records which have specific restrictions on access imposed by the agency of origin in accordance with § 1256.40.

(b) *Request for access.* Researchers who wish to have access to records the use of which is restricted by § 1256.16 to conduct biomedical research must submit a written request to the Assistant

Archivist for the National Archives (NN), National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408. OMB control number 3095-0002 has been assigned to this collection of information requirement. Researchers are encouraged to consult informally NARA prior to submitting the formal request. The request must include the following information:

- (1) Name and mailing address;
- (2) Institutional affiliation and position, if applicable;
- (3) List of published research;
- (4) References from two persons who have first-hand knowledge of the requester's qualifications to perform the research;
- (5) A statement of the nature of the research to be conducted and any plans for publication or presentation of the research findings;
- (6) A listing of all sources of great funds supporting the research project or its publication;
- (7) A statement of the methodology to be used;
- (8) A statement of the administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to be employed by the researcher to prevent unauthorized use or disclosure of the records;
- (9) A listing of the record groups and series titles to be used; and
- (10) A statement that the researcher will abide by the conditions of access to be prescribed by NARA and that the researcher will assume responsibility for the action of all persons working with the researcher on the project.

(c) *Access Review Committee.* Requests made under paragraph (b) of this section will be reviewed by NARA's Access Review Committee, which is composed of the Deputy Archivist of the United States, the Assistant Archivist for the National Archives, and the director(s) of the NARA division(s) which has custody of the requested records. The Committee may consult other persons within and outside the Federal Government who are knowledgeable in the research field for assistance in evaluating a request.

(1) The Committee will examine the request to determine:

- (i) Whether the requested information is of such a highly sensitive personal nature that disclosure should not

be permitted even for biomedical statistical or quantitative research;

(ii) Whether the methodology proposed by the requester will permit the researcher to obtain the projected research results without revealing personally identifying information;

(iii) Whether the research results will be published or presented at an academic or research conference;

(iv) Whether the requester is a *bona-fide* biomedical researcher who has previous experience in conducting statistical research projects and publishing articles or books on such research;

(v) Whether the safeguards proposed by the requester will adequately protect the personal information; and

(vi) Whether NARA has sufficient staff and space available to safeguard privacy interests necessary to accommodate the research project.

(2) The decision of the Committee will be made in writing to the requester within 15 workdays after receipt of a completed request. At the discretion of the Committee, the researcher may meet with the Committee to discuss the project or to discuss revising the research proposal to meet possible objections of the Committee.

(d) *Conditions of access.* Researchers who are granted access to restricted records, all others associated with the research project who will have access to personally identifiable information from the records, and the manager of any ADP facility handling the records or data elements containing personal identifiers shall agree in writing to maintain the confidentiality of the information and to adhere to the conditions of access imposed by NARA. NARA may impose some or all of the following conditions of access on any project; additional conditions may be imposed on the use of specific records or on specific projects:

(1) The records may be used only for the purpose of the statistical research and for the statistical reporting of research findings as described in the approved research project. The records may not be used for any other purpose without NARA approval;

(2) The records and copies of any data elements which permit the identification of an individual or which can be

identified with an individual may not be transferred to any person or institution not directly involved with the approved research project;

(3) Reasonable administrative, technical, and physical safeguards, as approved by NARA, to prevent unauthorized use or disclosure of the records shall be established by the researcher and followed by all persons associated with the research project;

(4) When required by NARA, the records shall be consulted at the NARA facility where the records are located;

(5) Any individually identifiable information in the researcher's notes or in authorized copies of the records shall be rendered anonymous by the researcher at the earliest possible time consistent with the purpose of the research project;

(6) Persons who are identified in the records may not be contacted by or on behalf of the researcher;

(7) Prior to publication or public presentation of the data, the final research product(s) shall be provided to the Assistant Archivist for the National Archives for review. NARA's review shall be limited to ensuring that there is no possible identification of individuals in the research findings. NARA will not evaluate the validity of the research findings;

(8) All research notes containing personally identifiable information from privacy-restricted records and/or copies of such records shall, upon completion of the project, be destroyed or returned to NARA, whichever condition NARA has imposed as a condition of access. If the notes and/or copies are destroyed, the researcher shall verify in writing to the Assistant Archivist for the National Archives that the research notes and/or copies have been destroyed.

(e) *Noncompliance with conditions of access.* If NARA discovers that a researcher has violated any of the conditions of access imposed by NARA, NARA shall take steps to revoke the NARA research privileges of that person and shall consult with the NARA legal counsel to determine any other steps to be taken to prevent any further disclosure of the personal information concerned. NARA may also inform

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the following persons and organizations of the researcher's failure to follow the conditions of use:

- (1) The institution with which the researcher is affiliated, if applicable;
- (2) Persons who served as references in the application for access;
- (3) Organizations which provided grant funds for the project;
- (4) The sponsor of the publication or public presentation; and/or
- (5) Appropriate professional organizations.

[53 FR 6821, Mar. 3, 1988]

Subpart A—General Restrictions

§ 1256.10 National security information.

(a) *Records.* Records containing information regarding national defense or foreign policy and properly classified under an Executive order.

(b) *Restrictions.* Such records may be disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of such Executive order and its implementing directive.

(c) *Imposed by.* Archivist of the United States in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 and 44 U.S.C. 2108.

[48 FR 6540, Feb. 14, 1983. Redesignated at 50 FR 15723, Apr. 19, 1985]

§ 1256.12 Information exempted from disclosure by statute.

(a) *Records.* Records containing information which is specifically exempted from disclosure by statute.

(b) *Restrictions.* Such records may be disclosed only in accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 2108.

(c) *Imposed by.* Archivist of the United States in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 and 44 U.S.C. 2108.

[48 FR 6541, Feb. 14, 1983, as amended at 48 FR 45393, Oct. 5, 1983. Redesignated at 50 FR 15723, Apr. 19, 1985]

§ 1256.14 Trade secrets and commercial or financial information.

(a) *Records.* Records not restricted by statute but which contain trade secrets and commercial or financial information submitted to the government with an expressed or implied understanding of confidentiality.

(b) *Restrictions.* Such records may be disclosed only if:

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(1) The party that provided the information agrees to its release; or

(2) In the judgment of the Archivist of the United States, the passage of time is such that release of the information would not result in substantial competitive harm.

(c) *Imposed by.* Archivist of the United States in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 and 44 U.S.C. 2108.

[48 FR 6541, Feb. 14, 1983. Redesignated at 50 FR 15723, Apr. 19, 1985]

§ 1256.16 Information which would invade the privacy of an individual.

(a) *Records.* Records containing information about a living individual which reveal details of a highly personal nature that the individual could reasonably assert a claim to withhold from the public to avoid a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy, including but not limited to information about the physical or mental health or the medical or psychiatric care or treatment of the individual, and that—

(1) Contain personal information not known to have been previously made public, and

(2) Relate to events less than 75 years old.

(b) *Restrictions.* Such records may be disclosed only:

(1) To those officers and employees of the agency that transferred the records to the National Archives who have a need for the record in the performance of their official duties;

(2) To those officers and employees of the agency that originated the information in the records who have a need for the records in the performance of their official duties;

(3) To researchers for the purpose of statistical or quantitative research when such researchers have provided the National Archives with adequate written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record and that no individually identifiable information will be disclosed; or

(4) To the subject individual or his duly authorized representative (the individual requesting access will be required to furnish reasonable and appropriate identification). Access will not